

Message Text

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63

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EUR-25 EA-11 NEA-14 IO-14 ISO-00

AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00

FPC-01 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 OMB-01

PM-07 RSC-01 SAM-01 SCI-06 SP-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00

FEA-02 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 OIC-04 DRC-01 /243 W

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R 202216Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1481

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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BRUSSELS FOR ENDERS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, OPEC, EC

SUBJECT: ECUADOREAN IMPLEMENTATION OF OPEC TAX DECISION

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PAGE 02 QUITO 04123 202321Z

REF: A) CARACAS 5572; B) QUITO 4030

SINCE ECUADOR ALREADY COLLECTS A 16 PERCENT ROYALTY ON CRUDE PRODUCTION, IT PLANS TO ADOPT ALTERNATIVE MEANS TO INCREASE GOVERNMENT TAKE BY AN AMOUNT EQUIVALENT TO THE 2 PERCENT INCREASE IN ROYALTY AGREED IN THE OPEC MEETING IN QUITO. MINISTRY OF FINANCE IS STUDYING VARIOUS ALTERNATIVES. TWO POSSIBILITIES HAVE BEEN MOOTED. ONE IS AN INCREASE IN THE 44.4 PERCENT INCOME TAX; THIS MIGHT COME OUT AS A GENERAL MEASURE APPLICABLE TO ALL CORPORATIONS IN ECUADOR. ANOTHER IS AN INCREASE IN THE 15 PERCENT EXPORT TAX APPLICABLE TO CRUDE PETROLEUM. IN DISCUSSION WITH EMBOFF, STATE OIL COMPANY (CEPE) MANAGER RENE VARGAS, USED A FIGURE OF ELEVEN CENTS PER BARREL AS THE TARGET FOR INCREASED GOVERNMENT TAKE. THIS IS THE NET INCREASE IN GOVERNMENT TAKE PER BARREL OF EQUITY OIL THAT WOULD RESULT FROM A 2 PERCENT INCREASE IN ROYALTY ON ARABIAN LIGHT MARKER CRUDE. HE DESCRIBED OPEC'S DECISION ON PRICES AS A CONTRIBUTION TO THE TRANQUILLITY IN PETROLEUM MARKET AND TERMED TAX INCREASE A SMALL ONE WHICH CONSUMER GOVERNMENTS SHOULD NOT ALLOW PETROLEUM COMPANIES TO PASS ON. HE INSISTED THAT TEXACO AND GULF ARE MAKING ABSOLUTE MINIMUM OF \$1.40 PROFIT PER BARREL OF ECUADOREAN CRUDE, UP FROM 40 CENTS WHEN EXPORTS BEGAN IN 1972. WHILE WE SUSPECT THAT THE COMPANIES WOULD DISPUTE VARGAS CALCULATION, WHICH IS BASED ON HIS OWN ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT PRESENT TRANSFER AND THIRD PARTY PRICES, IT IS INTERESTING AS AN INDICATION OF HOW MUCH FAT THE GOE MAY BELIEVE AWAITS TRIMMING. BREWSTER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PETROLEUM, TAX AGREEMENTS, GOVERNMENT REVENUES, TAX RATES, INCOME TAXES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974QUITO04123
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740162-0572
From: QUITO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740628/aaaaaxut.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A) CARACAS 5572; B) QUITO 4030
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 MAR 2002 by collinp0>; APPROVED <09 MAY 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ECUADOREAN IMPLEMENTATION OF OPEC TAX DECISION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
TAGS: ENRG, EC, OPEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005